MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Central Government makes bulk allocations of levy sugar generally on uniform norm of 425 grams per capita per month for the projected population as on 1.10.86. An ad-hoc increase of 5 per cent in the levy sugar allocation to States/UTs was made from on August, 1991 till March, 1994. This could not be continued for some time due to constraints in availability of levy sugar. However, this 5% ad-hoc increase has been restored with effect from September, 1995. The Government also allots about 1 lakh tonnes of levy sugar per annum as festival quota for the entire country in the month/months of the choice of the States/UTs. In view of better availability of sugar, the Government have decided to allocate levy sugar on the basis of 1991 census population w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Levy Sugar is lifted from the Sugar Mills either by the States/UTs and their nominees or by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The allocation of levy sugar to all the States/UTs is made about 2 months in advance and the State Governments/UTs are responsible for distributing the sugar within the State/UT through Public Distribution System outlets. The Central Government has not received any specific report from States/UTs regarding short supply of sugar from FCI godowns.

Review of Revamped Public Distribution System

1419. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of the revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to remove the shortcomings in the revamped PDS; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Government had entrusted an evaluation of Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) to Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission. The observations contained in the evaluation report has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for taking further necessary action. These points are also being reviewed in the meetings with State Governments as action on these observations are to be taken by the State Governments. The strengthening and streamlining of PDS/RPDS is a continual process and efforts are made to tone up the functioning of the system. The coverage of RPDS has been increased from 1775 blocks to 2446 blocks recently to make available the benefits of the scheme to all families residing in blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The major findings and suggestions made by the PEO are as follows:—

(i) The territorial area of Development Blocks and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) were not identical in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. All villages were not covered under RPDS in some of the identified Blocks in Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) The doorsteps delivery was not in operation in any of the fair price shop in the selected Blocks failing in Bihar, Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal. It was partially introduced in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Out of 64 selected villages, 25

villages were reported to be without fair price shops and selected households of 30 villages without ration cards. In some of the selected villages ration cards were either lost, destroyed, torn or became unusable but households were drawing ration.

(iv) The storage facilities at Block level were found to be inadequate. The dependancy on hired godowns was increasing instead of creating/constructing own godowns in government sector inspite of liberalising financial assistance by increasing subsidy component from 25% to 50%.

(v) The vans used for doorstep delivery and Mobile Fair Price Shops were found to be inadequate. About 20% vans were not in functioning condition and required major repairs.

(vi) Most of the Vigilance Committees were not functioning effectively for the purpose intended to.

(vii) More than 60% of all commodities allotted were lifted, though allotment of commodities was not uniform or in proportion to the actual requirement of the States or the food habits of the people. The distribution of commodities covered under the Scheme was generally satisfactory.

(viii) Prescribed norms for distribution of commodities were being generally followed by the FPS.

(ix) The problems of fair price shops dealers were related to location of delivery centres, transportation of commodities fixation of margin money or commission, advance payment of cost of commodities and periodical delivery.

(x) No payment of wages to the households worked under JRY/EAS was being made in kind through fair price shops in the selected States except Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. No linkage of RPDS was found with Nutrition Programme in any of the States.

(xi) There was a mixed reaction of the selected households about the functioning of the fair price shops. Over 61% of the respondents reported positive about the regularity in opening of fair price shops, Whereas 30.28% reported negatively. Many of the respondents from the State of Bihar (75.29%), Karnataka (43.66%), Maharashtra (57.14%), Rajasthan (43.48%) and Tamil Nadu (100%) reported in negative about the opening of the fair price shops and scheduled working hours. However, to overcome the existing gaps in opening time, working hours, regularity of distribution and communication to the consumers, effective steps have to be undertaken. There are some indications about the substandard quality, quantity as well as higher prices of the commodities at the fair price shops. A close supervision and monitoring is required for the purpose.

(xii) It was observed that commodities were generally distributed regularly but in some cases irregular distribution with long gap was reported.

(xiii) In case of wheat (60%) and kerosene (67%), the consumers felt the quantity distributed was adequate whereas in case of sugar (61%) and rice (55%), the quantity distributed was reported to be inadequate in many places. The quantity of commodities distributed through RPDS was reported to be generally "average" for wheat (69.08%), rice (57%) and sugar (57%).

(xiv) Majority of respondents felt that

the commodities, i.e. wheat (80.40%), rice (77.21%), sugar (89%) and kerosene (92.13%) as affordable.

(xv) In some of the States, the beneficiaries have indicated their local needs and preferences for commodities which they would like to be distributed through RPDS. For example, in Rajasthan and Gujarat there are local demands for inclusion of maize, jowar and bajra, etc. in Kerala demand of rice was more in lieu of wheat. In West Bengal the distribution of local variety of rice was preferred. The study has indicated that there is a strong need to consider the local situation (socio-economic and cultural) regarding preference of commodities. Area specific approach need to get due weightage in the scheme for addition and alteration of items under distribution.

(xvi) According to the 'knowledgeable persons' the implementation of the RPDS was unsatisfactory due to irregular distribution of foodgrains, high transport cost and inadequate subsidy, non-lifting of commodities regularly and timely, underweighment of supply/distribution, replacement of good quality commodities at stock points/delivery centres, non-adhering of quality and procedure in distribution and non-existence of Vigilance Committees.

खाद्यान्नों की मांग और आपूर्ति

1420. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने खाद्यान्नों की मांग और आपूर्ति के प्रबंधन हेतु कोई दीर्घकालिक नीति तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस प्रयोजनार्थ कुल कितनी धनराशि का निवेश किया जाना है?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह): (क) से (ग) सन् 1997 तक भारत की जनसंख्या के 941 मिलियन होने का अनुमान है। यह जनसंख्या 2007 तक बढ़कर 1102 मिलियन हो जाएगी। खपत स्तर में उल्लिखित सुधार और आय में वृद्धि होने के साथ इस जनसंख्या के लिए सन् 1997 और सन् 2007 के लिए क्रमशः 208 मिलियन मीटरी टन और 283 मिलियन मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों की आवश्यकता होने का अनुमान है। मांग के इसी स्तर के अनुरूप खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन भी बढ़ाया जाना है। 1997 और 2007 तक खाद्यान्नों के उत्पादन का अपेक्षित स्तर 210 मिलियन मीटरी टन और 285 मिलियन मीटरी टन है।

राज्य सरकारों और उनकी वसूली एजेंसियों के निकट सहयोग में भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा मूल्य समर्थन योजना के अधीन खाद्यान्नों की वसूली की जाती है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि किसानों को न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य के लाभ प्राप्त हो सकें और उन्हें अपने उत्पादों की न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य से कम मूल्यों पर मजबूरन बिक्री न करनी पड़े। न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर मूल्य समर्थन योजना के अधीन वसूली नीति का लक्ष्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि अनाज का सरकारी स्टाक तैयार किया जाए और उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए किसानों को उत्साहित किया जाए। केन्द्रीय पूल के लिए इस प्रकार वसूल किए गए खाद्यान्न भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा राज्य सरकारों को एक-समान केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य पर सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली/सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अधीन वितरित करने के लिए जारी किए जाते हैं। सरकार द्वारा इस प्रकार निर्धारित किए गए केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य वसूल किए गए खाद्यान्नों की आर्थिक लागत को पूर्णतया कवर नहीं करते हैं और इस खाते पर सरकार द्वारा भारी सब्सिडि वहन की जाती है।

Rehabilitation, Educational and Vocational Centres for Child Labour

1421. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rehabilitation, educational and vocational centres